

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127287
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /153 R

DRAFTED BY A DEL CASTILLO
APPROVED BY EB/OT/TA:HKOPP
STR: TREGAN
EUR/CE: JHURLEY
LABOR: GWANAMAKER
EB/OT/TA: DPATTERSON

-----028565 190503Z /14

P R 182228Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 127287

USEEC

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN OILSEED PROGRAM

REF: A) GATT L/3046/ADD 6
B) VIENNA 04371

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PAGE 02 STATE 127287

1. REUTERS NEWS SERVICE MAY 16 CARRIED STORY ON PROPOSED REGULATORY TAX ON OILSEED PRODUCTS, WHICH WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1. U.S. INDUSTRY VERY CONCERNED. REUTERS SAYS CABINET WILL MEET WEEK OF MAY 22 TO DETERMINE TAX LEVEL.

2. MISSION INSTRUCTED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE GOA OFFI-

CIALS IMMEDIATELY OF U.S. DETERMINATION TO DEFEND ITS TRADE INTERESTS AGAINST GATT VIOLATIONS. A STRONG REPRESENTATION IS NECESSARY TO ATTEMPT TO HEAD OF PARLIAMENT APPROVAL. ONCE LEGISLATION IS PASSED, REVERSAL IS A LENGTHY PROCEDURE.

3. MISSION SHOULD REMIND GOA OFFICIALS OF GOA 1969 COMMITMENT MADE TO USG IN LETTER TO GATT DIRECTOR GENERAL, SIGNED BY USG AND GOA REPRESENTATIVES. AT CONCLUSION OF CONSULTATIONS WITH USG ON PROPOSED LICENSING FEE FOR OIL-

CAKE IN 1968, GOA PROMISED NOT TO "REPLACE THE OILCAKE IMPORT FEE WITH A DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION TAX OR OTHER MEASURE OF EQUIVALENT EFFECT." (SEE REF A)

4. EMBASSY SHOULD REMIND GOA THAT USG WAS PREPARED TO WITHDRAW GATT CONCESSIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO AUSTRIA IN 1968 AND THAT WE VIEW CURRENT PROBLEM WITH EQUAL CONCERN AND WILL FULLY INVOKE OUR GATT RIGHTS IF GOA PROCEEDS WITH PROPOSED TAX PROGRAM.

5. FURTHER, USG CONSIDERS GOA'S SUGGESTED COMPENSATION (FUTURE PURCHASING COMMITMENTS) UNACCEPTABLE. SUCH COMMITMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE WELL BELOW NORMAL PURCHASE LEVELS FOR NEW AUSTRIAN OILSEED PROGRAM TO REACH ITS OBJECTIVES.
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PAGE 03 STATE 127287

6. IF DRAFT BILL RECEIVES CABINET APPROVAL, USG WOULD DEMAND DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOA PRIOR TO PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL.

7. ACTION AND RESPONSE IS REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, PRESS COMMENTS, GRAINS, TAXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE127287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780210-0646
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780543/aaaabkdh.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0081169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2646409
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN OILSEED PROGRAM
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AU
To: VIENNA USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0081169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014